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Car design wins Mater Dei team takes third place

Mater Dai team takes third place

By KATE BRASER
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If fuel efficiency is what you're looking for, you might want to check with a group of high school students from Mater Dei.

A team of the school's students placed third after a car they engineered achieved 1,596 miles per gallon during a competition in Fontana, Calif., this weekend.

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The group of local students designed a fuel-efficient, three-wheeled car that beat competitors from across the country and Canada at the California Speedway in Fontana, Calif.

Mater Dei was one of only two high schools that attended the competition. The rest were from colleges and universities. Mater Dei students' design was powered by a Honda 35cc, four-stroke engine. The car is about 9 feet

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long, 3 feet wide and 2 feet tall. Its brake and all other controls are operated from the steering wheel.

Grand prize went to the Cal Poly Team from San Luis Obispo, Calif. The team's car recorded 1,902.7 miles per gallon. Placing second was another Indiana team: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind., engineered a car that achieved 1,637.2 miles per gallon.

Shell sponsored the Eco-marathon Americas competition. The contest has been held in Europe for 20 years, but this year was held in the U.S. as well.

The purpose of the challenge was to engineer a car that could drive the farthest distance using the least amount of fuel, either conventional or alternative.

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